



AF/1742  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

# 30

Applicant: APECS INVESTMENT CASTINGS PTY. LTD. ) Examiner: SHEEHAN, J.  
Serial Number: 08637802 ) Art Unit: 1742  
Filed: 5/8/96 )  
For: SILVER ALLOY COMPOSITIONS )  
Docket Number: 4999 )

**AMENDMENT TO APPEAL BRIEF**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
And Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 19, 2001

Sir:

The Examiner raised issues of missing or omitted material in his reply brief dated January 17, 2001. Applicant herewith submits information to answer these issues.

In reply to the lack of superior qualities data allegation of the Examiner, applicant submits the attached chart showing comparative qualities of the alloys.

In reply to page 11, (II), the summary below shows the gross market share of Sterling Silver in the United States marketplace with the identified totals for Apecs Sterling Silver Alloys.

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**MARKET SHARE OF APECS STERLING SILVER ALLOY**

Sterling Silver Sales  
Annually USA

S/Sil Sales of Jewelry  
Casting/Material Products

Historical Comparison  
Years 1994-1998

~ 10 Million Tr Oz

2.5 – 3.0 Million Tr Oz of which  
UPMR is selling ~ 1/3<sup>rd</sup> or: 1.0  
Million Tr Oz of which Apecs  
Sterling Silver Alloy accounts for  
63.6% or:

636,521 Tr Oz in 1999

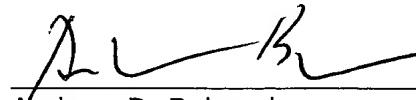
UPMR Sales Total  
400,000 Tr Oz 1994

UPMR Sales of Apecs Alloy  
160,043 Tr Oz 1994  
242,250 Tr Oz 1995  
423,442 Tr Oz 1996  
495,837 Tr Oz 1997  
610,641 Tr Oz 1998

Regarding page 13(II) and (III), persons skilled in the art were working to solve the problem. This is as evidenced by M. Rateau; Albert P. Johns (1991) *Novel silver-based ternary alloy* Metaleurop Recherche. Patent F 2 675 817/GB 2 255 348.

Another reference is the Peter Johns, technical paper, Firestain Resistant Silver Alloys, Santa Fe Symposium on Jewelry Manufacturing Technology 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

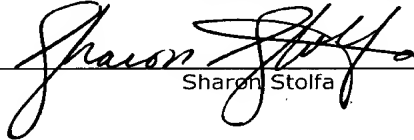
  
Andrew D. Babcock  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration Number 44517

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DRUM & ROTH  
53 WEST JACKSON BOULEVAR  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604-3606  
TELEPHONE: 312.922.6262  
FAX: 312.922.7747

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 19, 2001.*

  
Sharon Stolf

ALLOYS SHOWING COMPARATIVE VICKERS HARDNESS TEST RESULTS

